

AECHAMP I

3/1/53

21 July 1953

MEMORANDUM

TO: SR/COP

FROM: Chief, SR/2

SUBJECT: AECHAMP Mission to Lithuania and NW USSR

1. Background:

In our last mission to Lithuania in April 1951 we dispatched two agents. One of the two agents was killed by MGB forces a few weeks after arrival. The other agent succeeded in contacting the partisan forces, developing limited contact with legal living citizens, and maintaining continuous contact with CIA via W/T and S/W for the past 2 years.

According to his report, confirmed by other independent sources, the last remnants of the small Lithuanian partisan forces were liquidated by MGB action in December 1951. Our agent and his friend, a former partisan leader, escaped the Soviet trap but in the process lost all W/T equipment and our agent was wounded.

Our agent's current address, as well as the addresses furnished by him of reliable mail drops, are known to us. The last letter from our agent is dated 20 May 1953.

2. Objective Current Mission:

a. Exfiltration of our Lithuanian agent. It is anticipated that a wealth of positive and operational intelligence will be produced through the interrogation of our agent who has lived through many vicissitudes over the past two years in the Lithuanian SSR. All future operations into or via this country will largely depend upon this man's interrogation results.

b. AECHAMP I, the current infiltrate, has been trained by us for the past six months. He has had training among other things in observation reporting. Extensive collection of positive and operational intelligence is anticipated in AECHAMP'S travel from Lithuania through Latvia, Pskov, Leningrad, and exfiltration to Finland through the Karelo-Finnish SSR. The northern part of the agent's trip takes him through the vicinity of the Stalin Canal which is a top naval priority target.

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c. This is the first CIA operation largely aimed at the exfiltration of an individual from the USSR. Its experience may prove to be of greatest overall value affecting any future planned overland exfiltration from the USSR as a whole.

3. Implementation:

a. AECHAMP to be infiltrated into Lithuania by air from Germany on or about 16 August.

b. Personnel drop to be accompanied by either a cargo or pamphlet deception operation.

c. AECHAMP will bury one W/T set, extra money, and extra documents intended for the exfiltration of our Lithuanian agent.

d. He will travel by RR to Kaunas and attempt to contact our Lithuanian agent.

e. Upon contacting our Lithuanian agent, the two together will return to pick up the extra documents and then proceed by RR through Pskov, Leningrad to Karelo-Finland.

f. Upon arriving in a city in Karelo-Finland they will take off cross country 150 kms to the Finnish border.

g. The Finnish Intelligence Service has been alerted to aid and receive the exfiltrees.

h. They will be brought immediately to the U.S. via the best available means.

4. Comment:

a. If AECHAMP fails to contact our Lithuanian agent, he will carry out the exfiltration plan above.

b. The exfiltration attempt must be completed by 15 October 1953.

c. The British Intelligence Service is being informed that we are planning an air operation into Lithuania in the first part of August.

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SECRET